

Message Text

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UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 7289

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH

SUBJECT: IAEA PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL INVENTORY OF PLUTONIUM AT ANL

REF: (A) IAEA VIENNA 7173; (B) IAEA VIENNA 4609; (C) AMMONS/
GABBERT TELECON 8/31/76

1. FURTHER TO REF A, IAEA INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN, OR OBSERVING, ANL'S MID-SEPTEMBER PHYSICAL INVENTORY OF PU UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS IS PRIMARILY TO LEARN US TECHNIQUES FOR TAKING SUCH INVENTORIES. IN ORDER TO PERMIT MORE EFFICIENT COORDINATION, IAEA WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON GENERAL APPROACH TO BE TAKEN BY ANL, TOGETHER WITH CHICAGO OPERATIONS OFFICE PLANS, IF ANY, TO CHECK ANL RESULTS.

2. IN TERMS OF IAEA'S OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES VIS-A-VIS SAFEGUARDED PU AT ANL, IF SEALS WILL NOT BE REMOVED FROM CONTAINERS OF PLUTONIUM WHICH WERE VERIFIED BY IAEA DURING EARLIER INSPECTION, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR IAEA TO RE-MEASURE THE SEALED PLUTONIUM IN SEPTEMBER, AND SIMPLY CHECKING THE SEALS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. IF, HOWEVER, ANL INVENTORY-TAKING PROCEDURE INVOLVES OPENING SOME OR ALL IAEA SEALED CONTAINERS FOR VERIFICATION OF CONTENTS, IAEA WOULD WANT TO BE PRESENT TO OBSERVE REMOVAL OF INTACT IAEA SEALS, OBSERVE VERIFICATION PROCEDURE, AND TO REPLACE SEALS ON CONTAINERS WHICH HAD BEEN OPENED.

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3. IN TERMS OF IAEA'S INTEREST IN LEARNING US INVENTORY TECHNIQUES FOR PLUTONIUM, IF ANL PROCEDURE FOR IAEA SAFEGUARDED PLUTONIUM IS MERELY CHECKING THAT SEALS ARE INTACT AND RECORDING QUANTITY ON LABEL, AGENCY'S INTEREST AND LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION WOULD BE REDUCED. IF, ON OTHER HAND, THERE WILL BE OPENING AND MEASURING OF CONTENTS OF SOME (SEVERAL) PU CONTAINERS, AGENCY COULD LEARN QUITE A BIT FROM EXPERIENCE AND WOULD POSSIBLY PLAN TO HAVE ADDITIONAL STAFF MEMBER INVOLVED. IN EITHER EVENT, AGENCY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE BETTER KNOWLEDGE US APPROACH TO OVERALL PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF A PHYSICAL INVENTORY-TAKING AT SUCH A FACILITY.

4. ALONG LINES REF B, PARA 4, MISSION URGES DEPARTMENT AND ERDA TO USE THIS EXERCISE AS OPPORTUNITY TO HELP STRENGTHEN IAEA SAFEGUARDS PROCEDURES IN CRITICAL AREA OF SAFEGUARDING PLUTONIUM IN STORAGE.

5. RESPONSE REQUESTED ASAP TO ENABLE ADEQUATE PLANNING. FOLLOWING NORMAL COST-SAVING PRACTICE OF COMBINING TRIPS TO GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS, IAEA INSPECTOR WOULD MAKE VISIT TO ANL PART OF INSPECTIONS ELSEWHERE IN AMERICAS, ALL OF WHICH MUST BE SCHEDULED TO FIT TOGETHER.

6. IN LIGHT OF JUST COMPLETED TELECON WITH AMMONS (REF C), IAEA'S INTERESTS PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE APPLY TO THAT PORTION OF INVENTORY WHICH IS STILL UNDER IAEA SEAL. AGENCY WISHES KNOW WHEN REPLACEMENT PU WILL BE MEASURED AS PART OF ANL INVENTORY-TAKING. STONE

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